

USDI, Bureau of Land Management
Burns District
28910 Highway 20 West
Hines, Oregon 97738

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
for
CLEAR CREEK RIPARIAN FENCE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
OR-025-99-16

This proposal is in conformance with objectives and land use plan allocations in the 1992 Three Rivers Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Also, it is in conformance with the objectives stated in the August 12, 1997 Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Management for Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the States of Oregon and Washington and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Sections 2(c) and 7(a)1.

The proposed action would restore approximately 3.6 miles of riparian vegetation and improve water quality and wildlife habitat in the Stinkingwater grazing allotment through the construction of a fence to create a riparian pasture, altering the existing grazing system, spring development, and juniper control. This project is located about 28 miles east of Burns, in Harney County, Oregon.

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the Environmental Assessment (EA) and all other available information, I have determined that the proposal and the alternatives analyzed do not constitute a major Federal action that would adversely impact the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an EIS is unnecessary and will not be prepared. This determination is based on the following factors:

1. Beneficial, adverse, direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts have been disclosed in the EA. Analysis indicated no significant impacts on society as a whole, the affected region, the affected interests, or the locality. The physical and biological effects are limited to the Burns District, Three Rivers Resource Area and adjacent land.
2. Public health and safety would not be affected in the project area. There are no known or anticipated concerns with project waste or hazardous materials.
3. There would be no significant adverse impacts to regional or local air quality, prime or unique farmlands, known paleontological resources on public land within the area, areas with unique characteristics, ecologically critical areas or designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, floodplains, wetlands, riparian habitat, and water quality.
4. There are no highly controversial effects on the environment.

5. There are no effects that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risk. Sufficient information on risk is available based on information in the EA and other past actions of a similar nature.
6. This alternative does not set a precedent for other projects that may be implemented in the future to meet the goals and objectives of adopted Federal, State or local natural resource-related plans, policies or programs.
7. No cumulative impacts related to other actions that would have a significant adverse impact were identified or are anticipated.
8. Based on previous and ongoing cultural resource surveys, and through mitigation by avoidance, no adverse impacts to cultural resources were identified or anticipated. There are no known American Indian religious concerns or persons or groups who might be disproportionately and adversely affected as anticipated by the Environmental Justice policy.
9. No adverse impacts to any threatened or endangered species or their habitat that was determined to be critical under the ESA was identified. If, at a future time, there could be the potential for adverse impacts, treatments would be modified or mitigated not to have an adverse effect or new analysis would be conducted.
10. No significant contribution to the introduction, existence, or spread of Federally or State listed noxious or invasive nonnative species.
11. No significant adverse impacts on low income or minority populations.
12. No significant adverse effect on Indian Trust Resources.
13. No significant adverse impact on energy development, production, supply, and/or distribution.
14. This alternative is in compliance with relevant Federal, State and local laws, regulations, and requirements for the protection of the environment.

Signature on file
Joan M. Suther
Three Rivers Resource Area Field Manager

2/4/2003
Date